

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-10 and 12-20 are amended. Claims 1, 2, and 20 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Foreign Priority Claim

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the reference supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 11, 2003, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form filed therewith.

Drawings

The Examiner has not indicated whether or not the drawings have been accepted. Clarification is respectfully requested in the next official communications.

Amendments To The Title

In response to the Examiner's objection to the Title, the Applicants have revised to the title to be: WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM WITH GROUP REGISTRATION FUNCTION.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Substitute Specification

In accordance with MPEP §608.01(q), Applicants herewith submit a substitute specification in the above-identified application. Also included is a marked-up copy of the original specification which shows the portions of the original specification which are being added and deleted. The Applicants respectfully submit that the substitute specification includes no new matter and that the substitute specification includes the same changes as are indicated in the marked-up copy of the original specification showing additions and deletions.

Because the number of amendments which are being made to the original specification would render it difficult to consider the case, or to arrange the papers for printing or copying, the Applicants have voluntarily submitted this substitute specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the substitute specification be entered into the application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to overcome this rejection, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 to correct each of the deficiencies specifically pointed out by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim

the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thompson (U.S.5,301,257). Further, claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kojima (U.S. 5,495,520), and claims 3-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kojima in view of Thompson.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

Independent Claims 1 and 20

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a communication system with a group registration function, including a plurality of communication devices each including:

a group mode adapted to enable a user to selectively register, among a plurality of communication partners, at least one or more specific communication partners in each of a plurality of groups, the group mode allowing communication only between a first group of the plurality of groups selectively registered and a second group of the plurality of groups selectively registered; and

a switch operable by a user,

wherein after the plurality of said groups has been registered, by one of the communication partners in the first group, a single operation of the switch by the user designates the second group as additional communication partners.

In addition, dependent claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form to recite a combination of elements in a communication system with a group registration function, including a plurality of communication devices each including

a group mode adapted to enable a user to selectively register, among a plurality of communication partners, at least one or more specific communication partners in each of a plurality of groups, the group mode allowing communication only between a first group of the plurality of groups selectively registered and a second group of the plurality of groups selectively registered; and

at least a power supply switch and a first switch operable by a user for registering at least a first group mode and a second group mode,

wherein after the plurality of said groups have been registered, by one of the communication partners in the first group, a single operation of the switch by the user designates the second group as additional communication partners, and

wherein if said first switch and said power supply switch turned on simultaneously, the first group mode is registered, and if said first switch is turned on after said power supply switch is turned on, the second group mode is registered.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 20 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Thompson.

By contrast, as can be seen in the Thompson document, column 3, line 11 to column 4, line 9 and FIG. 1, this document merely discloses a cellular system in which registering and deregistering and switching therebetween is accomplished by system 1 or 2, rather than by the user, as set forth in claims 1 and 20 of the present invention.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 20 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Thompson. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and are respectfully requested. The Examiner will note that dependent claim 17 has been amended to depend from independent claim 1.

Independent Claim 2

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 2 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a communication system with a group registration function, including

at least a power supply switch and a first switch operable by a user for registering a at least a first group mode and a second group mode,

wherein if said first switch and said power supply switch turned on simultaneously, the first group mode is registered, and if said first switch is turned on after said power supply switch is turned on, the second group mode is registered.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 2 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Kojima.

By contrast, as the Examiner concedes, Kojima fails to teach a power supply switch. The Examiner then asserts that it is obvious to utilize a power supply switch in a communication device in order to conserve power consumption.

However, Kojima provides no suggestion whatsoever a first switch providing a different result depending on whether it is turned on simultaneously with the power switch or after the power switch is turned on.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 2 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Kojima. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 3-10 and 12-19 have been amended to place the claims in better form and to set forth additional novel features of the present invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

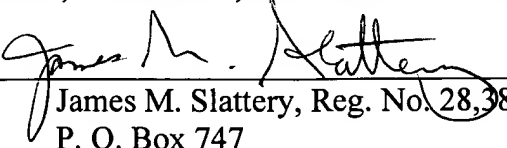
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
James M. Slattery, Reg. No. 28,380
P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

JMS:CTT/ags 
Attachment: Substitute Specification